

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for producing a rod composed of a transparent plastic via extrusion of a plastic molding composition, wherein the process comprises:

dividing the plastic molding composition into a plastic molding composition 1 and a plastic molding composition 2;

extruding the plastic molding composition 1 as a plastic tube; and

extruding the plastic molding composition 2 as a plastic rod,

wherein the plastic tube and the plastic rod are discharged from the extruder and then introduced without contact with one another into a vacuum tank calibrator, wherein at about 20 cm after entry into the vacuum tank calibrator the plastic tube is filled in parallel with the plastic rod and fused together.

~~A process for production of rods composed of transparent plastics via extrusion of a plastics molding composition, characterized in that an extruded plastics molding composition is divided and plastics molding composition 1 is used to extrude a plastics tube, and the previously separated molten plastics molding composition 2 is used in parallel to fill the freshly extruded tube, about 20 cm after entry into a vacuum tank calibrator, and the newly formed plastics molding is further processed as in conventional tube extrusion.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that plastics rods wherein the rod is composed of an uncolored polymethyl methacrylate whose having a transmittance is of at least  $\tau_{D65}$  85% are produced.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the plastics wherein the plastic molding composition has been is colored.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn) A round rod, produced by a process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn) An apparatus for production of round rods, characterized in that an extruded round rod of relatively small diameter in an inner extrusion die in parallel with an extruded tube of relatively large diameter using an outer extrusion die are introduced without contact, after discharge from the extruder, in a calibrator where they fuse to one another after about 20 cm.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn) The apparatus for production of round rods as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the tube is cooled with stabilization of shape prior to the fusion to the round rod.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn) The method of using round rods in the fitting-out of exhibition stands and of shops, in construction work, in the lighting industry, in the furniture industry, and in advertising technology.